

Appln. No. 10/579,013  
Amendment dated November 14, 2008  
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 1, line 16, and ending at page 1, line 32, as follows:

It is the purpose of this invention to create a device of the kind described above that enables an effortless introducing and removing of the piston/cylinder that can be coupled to the sliding unit of the sliding closure into the holding element of the sliding closure.

~~This task is solved in accordance with the invention by a device with the characteristics of Claim 1.~~

~~Further preferred embodiments of the device of the invention form the object of the dependent Claims.~~

The fact that the piston/cylinder unit of the invention can be introduced into, i.e., removed from the holding element by means of a controllable manipulator affixed to the ladle rotating tower means that the affixing of the piston/cylinder unit to the sliding closure (and therefore also the actual actuating of the sliding closure) can be carried out effortlessly and precisely with very few steps. The removing of the same is just as easy. In addition the piston/cylinder unit removed from the sliding closure can just as easily be brought into a so-called parking position on the ladle rotating tower, where the same can be

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optimally protected against any damage caused by outside  
influence during the exchange of vessels.